

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 20, 2003 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 15-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Acres (USP 6,565,434). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 15 is an independent claim.

According to M.P.E.P. § 2131, a claim is anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

The office action states:

“Column 17 lines 54-60 and Column 52 lines 11-23, disclose a translator 353 that integrates protocols between the host and the bonus promotion system. Acres discloses not just a game of chance with master gaming control, column 12 lines 3-14, but additionally, column 24 lines 8-25 discloses that each machine communication interface (MCI) further includes a replication port 78, which emulates the communication port on the gaming device, Acres discloses multiple communications ports which are adopted for communication. ... Acres in figure 4 discloses a flow chart that inherently teaches of a controller controlling the game being played on the gaming machine.”

The office action equates the MCI with the master gaming controller and the translator to the communication interface. Applicant respectfully disagrees for the reasons, among others discussed below.

- A. The prior art reference does not teach or suggest “generating the game of chance using the master gaming controller”

The office action improperly equates the MCI to the master gaming controller. Claim 15 provides for “generating the game of chance using the master gaming controller.” Although the MCI has several duties, it does not generate the game of chance. Rather, the MCI “is responsible for allowing the DACOM host 354 to communicate directly with the attached gaming device 300. ... the MCI 356 continually monitors changes to turn over, stroke, wins and bonus out and can quickly send any changes to these meters.” (Col. 18, lines 8-22). Thus, the MCI merely monitors the gaming machine and does not generate the game of

chance. Thus, the MCI of Acres does not “generate the game of chance” as claimed in Claim 15 and can not be equated to the master gaming controller.

B. The prior art reference does not teach or suggest “configuring a second communication port included in the communication interface to communicate data according to a second communication protocol”

The office action improperly equates the translator of Acres to the communication interface of the claimed invention. Claim 15 provides for configuring a first and second communication port on a communication interface and “transmitting the data from the communication interface to the master gaming controller via the first communication or the second communication port.” Acres does not discuss or mention the use of two communication ports on the translator for transmitting data to the MCI. “The translator 353 integrates the communication and system control protocols used by the DACOM host 354 ...[it] serves as a bridge between the DACOM host 354 and the bonus promotion system 350.” (Col. 17, lines 54-59). This is further illustrated in Fig. 5 where the translator 353 communicates with the MCI 356 through concentrator 352 and bank controller 355. Thus, the translator may integrate the protocol from DACOM into a first protocol for transmission to the MCI, the translator does not provide for “configuring a second communication port in the communication interface to communicate data according to a second communication protocol” as claimed in Claim 15, and can not be equated to the communication interface.

Accordingly, since each and every element as set forth in Claim 15 is not found, either expressly or inherently described in Acres as discussed above, it can not be said to anticipate the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

As to dependent claims 16-22, the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

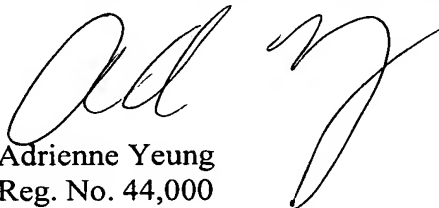
Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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